



CDSS

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Children's Residential Care Update

JUNE 2008

This is our second quarter *Children's Residential Care Update* for 2008. We are in the sixteenth year of our efforts to keep the children's residential care community informed about licensing programs and services. Your support in sharing this Update with colleagues in your organization and others interested in children's issues is appreciated.

Our *Updates* are also available online at the new Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website. They can be viewed or obtained at <http://cclld.ca.gov/PG457.htm>.



A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM C. JORDAN

We are saddened to report the loss of William "Bill" Jordan, Acting Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch (TAPB), who passed away suddenly at home on May 1, 2008. Bill had recently retired after devoting 30 years to the Department. As reported in the March 2008 issue of the *Children's Residential Care Update*, he had graciously agreed to serve as Acting Chief of TAPB when Barbara Rooney departed. Over the course of his many years with the Department, Bill worked in and contributed to virtually every aspect of CCLD, including field operations and several management and Career Executive Assignment positions. Bill was instrumental in developing CCLD's Caregiver Background Check Bureau, a critical component in ensuring the safety of facility residents and staff. Bill also served with distinction on the National Association for Regulatory Administration Board of Directors for several years. Bill was always ready, willing, and able to meet whatever challenge that was presented to him.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TUBERCULOSIS TESTING OF CHILDREN IN CARE

In light of an increase in Tuberculosis (TB) cases in California, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) TB Control Branch advises that children's residential facilities and foster parents be careful to request a medical assessment for a child in their care

that includes an examination for communicable TB as required by the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22 [CCR section 80069(c)(1)]. This examination includes a TB risk assessment to identify risk factors for latent TB infection or TB disease and qualifies as a TB test for purposes of meeting regulatory requirements.

The CDPH recommends that a child in care receive a TB risk assessment upon acceptance into care, to be good for up to twelve months. A very young child should receive this assessment upon acceptance into care and every six months for his or her first two years of life. When the child changes placements and his or her medical records do not immediately follow or are incomplete, he or she must receive a repeat medical assessment with a TB risk assessment.

If a child in care has TB risk factors, the physician will decide whether to perform an initial TB test, which may include the Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) or Quantiferon – TB Gold (QFT). Some of the factors the physician will consider are as follows:

- Contacts with people with confirmed or suspected contagious TB,
- Clinical or x-ray findings that suggest TB,
- Immigrated from countries with endemic infection, e.g. Asia, Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and countries of the former Soviet Union,
- Travel history to countries with endemic infection and substantial contact with indigenous people from such countries,
- Infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), or
- Health conditions that may put them at greater risk for TB, such as diabetes mellitus, chronic renal failure, malnutrition, or congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies.

Any time a child in a California Department of Social Services (CDSS)-licensed facility or home has TB symptoms or an abnormal chest x-ray, CDPH requires that the child be referred for an immediate medical evaluation to determine whether he or she has active TB disease. If you have questions regarding tuberculosis testing, please contact Jan Young, RN, MSN of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Tuberculosis Control Branch at (510) 620-3029.

UPDATE ON SSI/SSP AND NON-MEDICAL RATES FOR 2008

A State of California increase in the combined Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) rate, which would result in a 3.7 percent increase in the state portion of the cost of living allowance (COLA) from the 2007 SSI/SSP rate, was to become effective June 1, 2008. In March 2008, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill that delayed the 3.7 percent state increase in the COLA from June 2008 to October 2008. The Governor's revised budget proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 freezes SSI/SSP rates at their current level, pending approval from the Legislature. If you have questions regarding these new rates, please contact Ernie Ruoff of the Adult Programs Policy and Operations Bureau at (916) 229-4008.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS

Foster Family Homes (FFH): The CDSS staff are working on final revisions to the proposed Foster Family Homes (FFH) regulations. These regulations will implement legislation, input from the Children's Residential Regulations Review Workgroup and needed changes identified by the Department. It is expected that formal rulemaking on these regulations will begin shortly.

These regulations will implement several pieces of legislation that include: Assembly Bill (AB) 408 (Chapter 813, Statutes of 2003) entitled foster children to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities. AB 1116 (Chapter 637, Statutes of 2005) authorized designated, trained caregivers who are not licensed health care providers to administer emergency medical assistance and/or injections for specific reasons to a foster child in placement. Senate Bill (SB) 358 (Chapter 628, Statutes of 2005) established the Prudent Parent Standard and exempts short-term babysitters from regulatory requirements for criminal background check, health screening, and CPR training. SB 500 (Chapter 630, Statutes of 2005) defined a "Whole Family Foster Home" and requires a "Shared Responsibility Plan" for a minor parent and caregiver with regard to the minor parent's child.

Family Connections: CDSS staff are sending the proposed "Family Connections for Foster Youth" regulations to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for approval. The Public Hearing for these regulations was held on March 12, 2008 and no comments were received. The proposed regulations can be obtained from the Office of Regulation Development (ORD) website at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG1240.htm>.

These regulations support family connections for foster youth as mandated by AB 1412 (Chapter 640, Statutes of 2005), outline new foster care training requirements as mandated by AB 458 (Chapter 331, Statutes of 2003), and require foster family agencies to conduct reference checks for new certified family home applicants as mandated by AB 2661 (Chapter 643, Statutes of 2004).

If you have questions about these proposed regulations, please contact the Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312.

FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY WEB APPLICATION GOES LIVE

The CCLD is pleased to announce the rollout of the statewide Foster Family Agency (FFA) Web Application as of May 1, 2008. The web application allows a FFA to certify, decertify, and edit certified family home (CFH) information. Please visit www.ccldparkers.ca.gov and select *Internal Applications*, or simply bookmark the following URL, <https://secure.dss.cahwnet.gov/cclld/secure/default.htm>.

For the past few months, CCLD local licensing offices offered training to our providers for implementation to begin on May 1, 2008. If your agency was not able to attend, please contact your local licensing office to arrange for training.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Foster Family Home County Academy: All new Foster Family Homes (FFH) county licensing staff, including analysts, supervisors and program managers, are required to attend County Academy Training. This training relates to documenting and understanding the licensing process from application to administrative legal action. Northern California training will be offered in San Jose County **July 28 - August 1, 2008**.

Location: Santa Clara County Human Resources
333 W. Julian Street, San Jose, California

For more information or to register, please contact Cory Chevalier, who is coordinating registration for this training, at (559) 999-9182 or Cory.Chevalier@dss.ca.gov. Space is limited. The deadline for registration is **July 5, 2008**.

2008 Foster Family Agency Conference: The 2008 Foster Family Agency (FFA) Training Conference is being hosted by the Pacific Inland Children's Residential Regional Office. It is being planned for the fall, to be held in either October or November 2008. Invitation letters and registration information will be mailed soon.

2008 Group Home Conference: The 2008 Group Home (GH) Training Conference is being hosted by the Northern California Children's Residential Regional Office. It is being planned for the fall, to be held in either October or November 2008. Invitation letters and registration information will be mailed soon.

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES

Mary Jolls was recently appointed to the position of Regional Manager, Sacramento Children's Residential Regional Office. Mary was most recently the Chief of the Division Administrative Support Bureau in the CCLD Central Operations Branch. She has been a Licensing Program Analyst, legislative consultant for the Office of Legislation, and a Program Manager in the Senior Care Program.

Gary Levenson-Palmer, who was most recently in the position of Regional Manager, Sacramento Children's Residential Regional Office, has been appointed to the position of Chief of the Division Administrative Support Bureau.

BE READY FOR SUMMER HEAT

California summer temperatures often reach the 80s, 90s, and even the 100s, which may cause heat-related problems for children in care who are active or have health conditions that make them vulnerable to the heat. The CCLD reminds licensees to take heat-related precautions during the warmer summer months. These precautions include:

- Making sure that the temperature in your facility or home is safe and comfortable
- Asking children in care to drink water and other fluids and having these within easy access
- Reducing physical activity and staying indoors during the hottest part of the day

- Opening windows to allow air circulation and using fans as needed, and
- Avoiding hot foods and heavy meals.

If a child becomes ill with heat exhaustion or heat stroke, it is important to call 911 right away. Shade and water should be used to cool the child down. Please see tips that licensees can follow to prevent heat-related illnesses on the CDSS website at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/HeatTips.pdf>.

RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS

All of the statistics for state and county licensed Children's Residential Care facilities are available online. When you visit the new CCLD home page at <http://www.cclld.ca.gov>, please click on the "Facility Facts" tab at the top of the page. Click on the "Licensing Statistics" link on the center of the page that appears. Then, click on the desired "State Licensed Facilities by Geographical Area" or "County Licensed Facilities" link on the center of the page. Directories can also be obtained from your local licensing office.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about this *Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Robert Pate, Acting Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 324-4312. Please visit our website at www.cclld.ca.gov to obtain copies of *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Jo Frederick

JO FREDERICK
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures